

This Week In Agriculture

April 28, 2006

April 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Upcoming events

Idaho Cattle Association
Spring board meeting is
April 26-27 at River
Ranch in Idaho Falls.
For more information
call 343-1615

May 15 is the deadline
to submit comments to
Director Takasugi on the
disposal of crop residue.
(See page 2 for more
information)

**This Week in Agriculture
is a publication of the
Idaho State Department
of Agriculture.**

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rmason@idahoag.us**

ISDA offers safe disposal of unusable pesticides

Agricultural producers, dealers, applicators and homeowners who are storing unusable pesticides will have a safe, legal and free opportunity to dispose of them this May when the Idaho State Department of Agriculture conducts unusable pesticide collections in Nampa, Weiser, Lewiston and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Participation is free for the first 1,000 pounds of unusable pesticides per participant. Anyone with unusable herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and rodenticides should bring them to the closest collection site between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on the date and location listed with

this article (Sorry no fertilizer, micronutrients, paint, solvents, equipment or motor oil can be accepted).

"These collections provide a mechanism for safely disposing of chemicals in an environmentally sound manner. The unusable pesticides collected in May will be incinerated or otherwise destroyed," said Victor Mason II, manager of the Department's Pesticide Disposal and Container Recycling Programs.

Since 1993, the Idaho State Department of Agri-

culture has safely disposed of more than 706,000 pounds of unusable pesticides. Pesticides become unusable for many reasons, including loss of potency, exposure to temperature extremes, cancellation or suspension by state or federal authorities, or growers' decisions to change their cropping rotations or practices.

For more information about the collections, please see our website at:
<http://www.idahoag.us>
or call (208) 465-8442.

<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 1, 2006	Nampa	Pickles Butte Landfill
May 2, 2006	Weiser	Idaho Department of Transportation Yard
May 3, 2006	Lewiston	Nez Perce County Fairgrounds
May 4, 2006	Coeur d'Alene	Coeur d'Alene Transfer Station

Applicators needed to help remove Eurasian watermilfoil

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture will need professional applicators to help with the eradication of the noxious weed Eurasian Watermilfoil. The weed grows in Idaho's lakes and rivers, threatening the state's scenic beauty as well as posing a threat to swimmers and wildlife. Herbicide applicators must be certified in the Aquatic Weed and Pest Control (AW or AP) category.

If you are already licensed in the Aquatic Weed and Pest Control category, you may be called upon to assist with aquatic herbicide applications

to control Eurasian watermilfoil.

If you are not licensed as a professional applicator or you do not have the Aquatic Weed and Pest Control category, you can take the exam at one of the regularly scheduled exam sessions held throughout the state of Idaho.

ISDA may also increase the number of exam sessions in specific areas as necessary. Study materials for taking the exam are available at ISDA's Boise office.

If you need to order study



materials or to find an exam session near you please call (208) 332-8600 or visit the ISDA website at
<http://www.agri.idaho.gov/Categories/Pesticides/licensing/indexPestLicenseMain.php>.

Public notice

Opportunity to provide written submissions or documents

The Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture intends to issue a determination pursuant to Idaho Code § 22-4803(1) concerning economically viable alternatives to thermal disposal of crop residue. In accordance with the requirements of § 22-4803(1), the Director will determine whether economically viable alternatives exist to burning for the purpose of (1) disposing of crop residues, (2) developing physiological conditions conducive to increased crop yields, or (3) controlling diseases, insects, pests or weed infestations.

Written or electronic submissions of documents pertaining to the determination will be considered by the Director if received by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, May 15, 2006. Any such items should be addressed or delivered to the attention of:

Patrick A. Takasugi
Director
Idaho State Department
of Agriculture
P.O. Box 790
2270 Old Penitentiary Rd
Boise, Idaho 83712

Email:
asmp@agri.state.id.us

Thursday April 27, 2006 Stakeholder Update

SITUATION SUMMARY

On April 19, 2006 officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced the detection of potato cyst nematode (PCN), *Globodera pallida*, a major pest of potato crops. This is the first detection of the pest in the United States. The microscopic worms pose no threat to human health, but can reduce the yield of potatoes and other crops. There is no sign that the quality of tubers grown in Idaho has been affected. APHIS and ISDA are implementing action to determine the distribution of the pest and prevent movement of PCN to uninfested areas.

SURVEY

Program personnel are surveying fields, cellars, packers and processors that may be associated with the detected PCN. Samples collected are sent to a University of Idaho laboratory for identification. Survey staff collected 362 samples on 4/26/06 for a total of 466 samples since the official confirmation date (4/19/06). The source of the infestation has not been identified.

REGULATION

APHIS emergency action notifications (EANS) and ISDA restrictions have been imposed at suspect sites. These state and federal actions restrict the movement of soil, plants, plant material and farm equipment which may have been exposed to the potato cyst nematode and is intended to prevent the introduction and dissemination of the cyst into other areas. To date, these restrictions have been imposed in Bingham, Bonneville, and Jefferson counties, but limited to seven sites which include fields, cellars and potato handling facilities. Other than these locations, product is moving normally.

PERSONNEL

Approximately 50 APHIS and ISDA personnel are working on the cooperative control program at temporary facilities.

TRADE

ISDA, APHIS and potato industry officials are working with trade representatives from Canada, Japan and Mexico to lift trade restrictions imposed late last week.

For addition information, or to receive the next PCN update contact:

Wayne Hoffman, ISDA (208) 332-8671
Claude Knighten, USDA (301) 734-5271